

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH JUDGE PRAMUK SAWATDIMONGKHON,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S NARCOTICS CONTROL  
BOARD.

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM CALLED ON JUDGE PRAMUK SAWATDIMONGKHON,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S NARCOTICS CONTROL  
BOARD (NCB), TUESDAY MARCH 22. APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN SOUGHT  
MARCH 18 IN ORDER TO GIVE AMBASSADOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW  
WITH JUDGE PRAMUK THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS EFFORT AND  
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. NCB'S BUDGET HAD JUST RECEIVED GOVERN-  
MENT APPROVAL MARCH 21. HOUSED IN THE SAME OFFICE BUILDING  
OCCUPIED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE QUARTERS ARE OBVIOUSLY  
TEMPORARY IN NATURE AND THE JUDGE IS JUST SETTING ABOUT TO  
PULL HIS TEAM TOGETHER.

2. AMBASSADOR OPENED THE INTERVIEW BY INFORMING THE SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE UPCOMING EAST ASIA NARCOTICS COORDINATORS'  
MEETING ON APRIL 14-15 AND FURNISHING HIM WITH A COPY OF THE  
NOTE WHICH HAD BEEN HANDED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER MARCH 21.  
AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED TO JUDGE PRAMUK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
MEETING, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR  
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ALL THE U.S. NARCOTICS COORDINATORS TO GATHER FOR AN EXCHANGE  
OF IDEAS AND TO RECEIVE POLICY GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON, BUT  
ALSO BECAUSE THE WASHINGTON CONTINGENT WOULD INCLUDE PRESIDENTIAL  
ASSISTANT DR. PETER BOURNE, DEA ADMINISTRATOR PETER BENSINGER  
AND THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY ON NARCOTICS, MS.  
MATHEA FALCO, AS WELL AS CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF, THE KEY  
INDIVIDUALS IN THE US GOVERNMENT INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-NARCOVU

EFFORTS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCES. POLICE GENERAL CHAVALIT (ALSO PRESENT AT THE INTERVIEW AS WAS THE NCB DEPUTY SECGEN, LIKIT THERDSTEERASUKAI), EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWING ACQUAINTANCE WITH DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO WHOM HE HAD MET IN GENEVA. HE ALSO RECALLED HIS EARLIER MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE JUDGE PRAMUK WITH A READY APPRECIATION OF HOW IMPORTANT THESE PERSONALITIES WERE, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE US NARCOTICS EFFORT WORLD-WIDE, BUT ALSO IN RELATION TO THE EFFORT IN THAILAND.

3. LIKIT, JUDGE PRAMUK'S DEPUTY, THE PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD'S PLAN OF ACTION, SAYING THAT IT WOULD CONSIST OF FOUR BASIC ELEMENTS: 1. SUPPRESSION 2. TREATMENT 3. CROP SUBSTITUTION 4. PREVENTION. AS DESCRIBED, IT WOULD AMOUNT TO AN EFFORT TO DRAW TOGETHER THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAVE UP UNTIL NOW FALLEN WITHIN THE SEPARATE PROVINCES OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES WITHIN THE THAI GOVERNMENT. IT WAS FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT EVENTUALLY THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD WOULD HAVE A STAFF OF 334 PEOPLE, THIS COMPLEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1978. THE TARGET FOR THIS YEAR (1977) WOULD BE 240. THE SEVEN BASIC DIVISIONS WITHIN THE NCB WILL BE: THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY; POLICY AND PLANNING; FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION; INVESTIGATIVE AND SUPPRESSION; LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC; AND COORDINATION AND EVALUATIONS. THERE WILL BE TWO DEPUTIES. THE FIRST (IN CHARGE OF THE FIRST FOUR DIVISIONS) IS LIKIT; CHAVALIT WILL DIRECT THE WORK OF THE OTHER THREE. OBVIOUSLY A GOOD DEAL OF BUREAUCRATIC WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE NARCOTICS CONTROL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOARD IS OPERATING AT ANYWHERE NEAR TOP EFFICIENCY. NEVERTHELESS, ON PAPER THE EFFORT IS IMPRESSIVE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THAILAND.

4. DURING THE ALMOST HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW, OTHER DRUG RELATED TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

1) THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IN THE HIGHLANDS AND THE URGENT NEED FOR UNFDAC AND RTG PLANNING FOR A FOLLOW ON PROGRAM WHEN THE CURRENTT UN EFFORT TERMINATES;

2) THE DESTRUCTION OF HEROIN. THE SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED THAT IT IS HIS INTENTION TO ORGANIZE A PUBLIC BURNING OF APPROXIMATELY 500 KILOS OF HEROIN DURING THE LAST PART OF APRIL. THIS WILL BE HEROIN WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED AS EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH STILL-ACTIVE DRUG CASES PENDING IN THE COURTS. IN SPEAKING OF THE DESTRUCTION, GENERAL CHAVALIT SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION THAT THE HEROIN

IS ACTUALLY HEROIN AND NOT SOMETHING ELSE SUBSTITUTED IN ITS PLACE, PRESS COVERAGE, NOT ONLY BY THE THAI MEDIA BUT ALSO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICES IN BANGKOK, ETC. HE RECALLED THE OCCASION IN 1972 WHEN THE THANOM GOVT DESTROYED A STORE OF NARCOTICS WITHOUT DUE REGARD FOR CERTIFICATION AND PRESS COVERAGE AND THE SUSPICIONS WHICH ATTENDED THAT EVENT.

3) THE DRUG TREATMENT EFFORT BEING ORGANIZED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGKOK. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHERE THIS PROGRAM STOOD AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WAS PROCESSING SEVEN PEOPLE TO BE SENT TO THE US FOR TRAINING. THESE PEOPLE IN TURN WOULD INSTRUCT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD MAN THE VARIOUS TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY. THE AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGED GERERAL CHAVALIT TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESSING OF THESE CANDIDATES SO THAT THE AVAILABLE FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT WOULD NOT LAPSE.

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5. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SECRETARY GENERAL PRAMUK IS NEW TO THE NARCOTICS BUSINESS; HOWEVER, HE IS ASSISTED BY SEVERAL KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO DO HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE VARIOUS THAI EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS. FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF HIS BACKGROUND, PRAMUK WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS REPUTATION FOR PROBITY. UNDER HIS DIRECTION, THE NCB COULD BECOME AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT FOR THE RTG IN COORDINATING ITS COUNTRY-WIDE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

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